

would have also introduced him to a rhetoric subservient to the more immediate goals of political science and sacred studies. Aelfric's refusal to concern himself with the principles of rhetoric in his works or with the figures of speech in his grammar may be taken as

indicative of his age's mistrust of the *ars rhetorica*. Like Augustine's fellow Christians some six centuries earlier, Aelfric and his contemporaries seem to have distrusted the study of rhetoric and misunderstood its potential use for a Christian homiletic.

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